



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 116th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 166

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2020

No. 163

Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JOSH HAWLEY, a Senator from the State of Missouri.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, who has given us the gift of life, consecrate with Your presence the way our lawmakers work today. Since they don't know what a day will bring, help them to strive to serve You in faithfulness each moment. In all things, draw their minds to the goal of seeking to please You. As they draw near to You, illuminate their paths with Your wisdom and grace. Lord, show them how to unselfishly serve Your great purposes for humanity, proving themselves worthy of Your manifold blessings.

And, Lord, as millions mourn Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg's death, send the solace of Your comfort.

We pray in Your unifying Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

The bill clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, September 21, 2020.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JOSH HAWLEY, a Senator from the State of Missouri, to perform the duties of the Chair.

CHUCK GRASSLEY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. HAWLEY thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

REMEMBERING JUSTICE RUTH BADER GINSBURG

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, our Nation is mourning the end of an exceptional American life. Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg meant so much to our country.

First and foremost, she was a brilliant, generational legal mind who climbed past one obstacle after another to summit the very pinnacle of her profession.

Justice Ginsburg was a fixture on our Nation's highest Court for more than a quarter of a century. She was not just a lawyer—no, not just a lawyer—but a leader. From majority opinions to impassioned dissents, her life's work will not only continue to shape jurisprudence but also enlighten scholars and students for generations.

By all accounts, Justice Ginsburg loved her work because she loved the law. In a more ordinary life story, her courage and continued excellence in

the face of multiple serious illnesses would itself be the heroic climax rather than just one more remarkable chapter among so many.

On the Court, Justice Ginsburg was a universally admired colleague. It is no wonder that many Americans have taken particular comfort these past days in remembering her famous friendship with her ideological opposite, the late Justice Scalia.

Together, they made sure the halls of justice also rang with laughter and comedy. They rarely sat on the same side of a high-profile decision, but they still sat together at the opera and most any other time they could manage to be together.

The legal world is mourning a giant, but Justice Ginsburg's fellow Justices, a legion of loyal law clerks, and countless many others are mourning a close friend or a mentor. The Senate sends condolences to them all.

Yet Justice Ginsburg's impact on American life went deeper still. Friday's loss feels personal to millions of Americans who may never have made her acquaintance.

Justice Ginsburg was a spirited, powerful, and historic champion for American women to a degree that transcends any legal or philosophical disagreement. As she climbed from the middle-class, Brooklyn, Jewish roots, of which she was so proud, into the most rarefied air of law and government, the future Justice had to surmount one sexist obstacle after another.

Justice Ginsburg did not only climb the mountain; she blazed the trail. Through deeds, through words, and simply through her example, she helped clear away the cobwebs of prejudice. She opened one professional door after another and made certain they stayed open behind her.

Directly or indirectly, she helped entire generations of talented women build their lives as they saw fit and enrich our society through professional

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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